1	2	3
Southern	16	65
South Central	21	60
South Eastern	20	90
South East Central	12	51
South Western	06	18
Western	20	44
West Central	03	05

efforts are continuously made to provide more and more facilities to all classes of passengers including lower classes. In Sleeper Class, Railways are now providing additional fittings like bottle holder, magazine bag, snack table/mirror in each bay. For improving cleanliness during long journeys, facilities at identified intermediate stations are being provided for mechanized cleaning of toilets and removal of garbage from dustbins etc. Large number of trains are already receiving these attentions at nominated stops.

(d) Superfast trains offer benefit of reduced journey time as they are faster than mail express trains.

(e) Per passenger additional earning from Superfast train is Rs. 10/- in Second Class, Rs.20/- in Sleeper Class, Rs.30./- in AC Chair Car, First Class, AC 3 Tier and AC 2 Tier Classes and Rs. 50/- in AC First Class. The earning of the Railways form part of the Consolidated Fund of India and the expenditure out of the same is as per the Heads of Demand for Grants voted by the Parliament. There is no direct correlation between earnings from any one source with expenditure on a specific activity.

Decline in wagon usage

2708. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a constant decline in the wagon usage and failure to meet the targets in loading despite all efforts.

(b) whether report of his Ministry's Directorate of Statistics and Economist points total loading upto July, 2006 was less than the targets by 2.73 millions and 5.26 millions tones respectively and the loss of Rs. 103,81 crores was reported from the seven zones;

(c) whether his Ministry is considering for private investment to the tune of Rs.5000 crores; and

(d) whether his Ministry would be in rolling stock and other infrastructure and would be routed through public-private partnership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The operating indices of wagon kilometers per wagon per day (Broad Gauge) in 2005-06 was 211.2 as compared to 204.5 in 2004-05 and freight loading upto November, 2006 was 242.42 million tonnes more than the loading achieved during the corresponding period of last year.

(b) The loading during the month of July, 2006 and during the period upto end of July, 2006 were less than the proportionate targets by 2.73 million tonnes and 5.26 million tonnes respectively. There was no shortfall in total earnings upto July, 2006. There was an excess of Rs.473.44 crores in total earnings upto July, 2006 as compared to the budget proportion.

(c) and (d) Several areas such as private operation of Container Trains, investment in Wagon Investment Scheme, port connectivity projects,. hospitality & tourism and joint venture projects for setting up of Production Untis for rolling.stock etc. have been identified for possible execution through public-private partnership route. No investment target has been fixed.

Gauge Conversion of Rewari-Bikaner section

†2709. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state that by when the work of gauge conversion would be taken up in view of its requirement on Rewari-Bikaner via Sadulpur-Churu section of North-Western Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RASLWAYS(SHR! R. VELU): On Rewari-Bikaner section, Rewari to Sadulpur gauge conversion has already been taken up. Regarding gauge conversion of remaining portion from Sadulpur to Bikaner, an updating survey has been completed and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.